

## Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-14 ISO-00 FEA-02 AEC-11

AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11

FPC-01 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01

PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00

SIL-01 LAB-06 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /236 W

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R 122119Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4668

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS CARACAS 6480

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, VE

SUBJECT: NO LET-UP IN VENEZUELAN REACTION TO BENNETT STATEMENT

SUMMARY: VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES AND MAJOR ORGANIZATIONS HAVE  
ADDED THEIR VOICE OF PROTEST AGAINST BENNETT TESTIMONY TO THOSE  
REPORTED IN REFTEL. SEVEN SEPARATE ARTICLES APPEARED IN TWO MAJOR  
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VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS IN CARACAS MORNING OF JULY 12. END SUMMARY

1. THE LEFTIST POLITICAL PARTIES, MIR AND URD, WERE QUICK TO TAKE POSITION THAT BENNETT TESTIMONY REPRESENTS OFFICIAL US POLICY VIS A VIS VENEZUELA. THEY CLAIM THAT BENNETT HOSTILITY COMMENT CONSTITUTES ACT OF AGRESSION AGAINST SOVEREIGNTY OF OPEC COUNTRIES AND PARTICULARLY AGAINST VENZUELA, THE MOST RECENT COUNTRY TO RAISE PRICES AND REDUCE PRODUCTION. THE IMPLICATION IS THAT SAUDI ARABI AND IRAN (SIC) ARE BEING USED TO BREACH OPEC FRONT BY CONTRARY POLICY OF INCREASING PRODUCTION AND REDUCING OIL PRICES. ACCORDING TO THESE PARTIES, VENEZUELA'S BEST ANSWER IS COMPLETE NATIONALIZATION OF PETROLEUM INDUSTRY. URD PROPOSED A JOINT SESSION OF VENEZUELAN SENATE AND HOUSE OF DEPUTIES TO DEBATE BENNETT TESTIMONY.

2. NATIONAL WORKERS CONFEDERATION (CTV) ALSO REJECTED BENNETT STATEMENT AS WELL AS NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PETROLEUM WORKERS (FEDEPETROL). THEY DECLARED THEIR SUPPORT FOR NATIONALIZATION OF PETROLEUM INDUSTRY.

3. VENEZUELAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN WASHINGTON, FELIX ROSSI, WAS QUOTED UNDER WASHINGTON DATELINE AS SAYING THAT MAJORITY OF GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONARIES IN WASHINGTON FAMILIAR WITH ENERGY MATTERS AGREE WITH VENEZUELAN POLICY OF REDUCING PRODUCTION AS CONSERVATION METHOD. HE SAID THAT VENEZUELAN MEASURES ADOPTED FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES ARE NO DIFFERENT FROM THOSE APPLIED IN TEXAS, AND HAVE BEEN WELL ACCEPTED BY AMERICAN PETROLEUM INDUSTRY.

4. FINALLY, PRINCIPAL OIL COMPANIES APPROACHED BY VENEZUELAN PRESS DECLINED TO SPECUALTE ON TESTIMONY.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** martinjw  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 OCT 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <18 OCT 2002 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <16 JAN 2003 by martinjw>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** NO LET-UP IN VENEZUELAN REACTION TO BENNETT STATEMENT SUMMARY: VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES AND MAJOR ORGANIZATIONS HAVE  
**TAGS:** ENRG, VE, US, (BENNETT)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005